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**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

**July 24, 2007  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Meeting of the Transportation Conformity Working Group was held at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

**In Attendance:**

Huddleston, Lori	Metro
McAllester, Brad	Metro
Poe, Lisa	SANBAG
Walecka, Carla	Transportation Corridor Agency

**SCAG Staff**

Amatya, Naresh	SCAG
Asuncion, John	SCAG
Collier, Cheryl	SCAG
Del Rosario, Sheryll	SCAG
Gutierrez, Pablo	SCAG
Mann, Betty	SCAG
Nadler, Jonathan	SCAG
Sherwood, Arnie	SCAG, ITS UC Berkeley

**Via Teleconference:**

Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Bergner, Jennifer	OCTA
Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Cacatian, Ben	Ventura County
Yoon, Andrew	Caltrans District 7
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Johnson, Sandy	Caltrans District 11
Kelly, John	U.S. EPA
Lobeck, Ken	RCTC
O'Connor, Karina	U.S. EPA
Shaw, Amad	Caltrans District 8

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Modrek, Laleh

Caltrans District 8

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Brad McAllester, Metro, called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**3.1 Approval Item**

**3.1 TCWG June 26, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

A MOTION was made to MOVE the minutes. The MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY approved.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4.1 Public Participation Plan: Draft Amendment No. 1**

Cheryl Collier, SCAG, stated that SCAG's July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Transportation and Communications Committee approved the release of SCAG's Public Participation Plan draft amendment No. 1 for 45-day review and public comment period which will close on August 28.

SCAG's Public Participation Plan serves as a guide for SCAG's public involvement process as well as the continuing, comprehensive and coordinated planning process among the stakeholders to ensure the ongoing opportunity for broad-based participation in the development and review of regional transportation plans and programs.

As a metropolitan planning organization (MPO), SCAG is responsible for preparing and utilizing a Plan which is developed in consultation with all interested parties and provides reasonable opportunities for interested parties to comment on the content of Regional Transportation Plan, the

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Transportation Improvement Program, and overall work program pursuant SAFETEA-LU requirements.

SCAG made significant efforts to reach out to interested parties to encourage feedback, and involve interested parties in the development of the Plan's strategies and procedures and will continue these efforts in future updates to the Plan.

In March, the Regional Council (RC) adopted the Public Participation Plan. It was anticipated that future amendments may be needed as SCAG staff continued to work with FHWA and FTA on addressing the Department of Transportation's Statewide Transportation Planning; Metropolitan Transportation Planning; and Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2007.

Any revisions to the original Plan adopted by the RC in March are highlighted in bold italics in the document that was handed out. The new Appendix "A", page 18, to the adopted Public Participation Plan is intended to provide more explicit details as to SCAG's strategies, procedures and techniques for public participation on the RTP, RTIP and Overall Work Program (OWP).

The five primary goals of the Plan are:

- 1) Implement an open and on-going participation process that ensures citizen, agency, and interested party participation in, and input into, regional transportation planning and programming.
- 2) Provide full public access and information to key decisions in the regional transportation planning process.
- 3) Disseminate clear, concise and timely information to citizens, affected agencies and interested parties.
- 4) Provide timely responses to issues, concerns, and comments raised by the public regarding the development and implementation of regional transportation plans, programs and projects. Ensure that the comments received are considered and incorporated into the deliberations regarding proposed plans and programs.
- 5) Enhance the participation process including reaching out to those communities that have been underrepresented and/or underserved.

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As part of our continuing effort to engage interested parties in the development of our public participation activities, SCAG recently conducted an online survey of 3,600 individuals within SCAG's contact databases which asked several questions to help SCAG determine how to improve our public participation and outreach efforts. SCAG received 376 responses to the survey.

The Plan will go to the Transportation & Communications Committee (TCC) and RC at their August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting for consideration of adoption.

4.2 RTP Update

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, informed the Working Group that staff will present information on growth scenarios at the next TAC meeting (July 31, 2007). Analytical information will be shared with the TAC along with discussion of the baseline performance results. Staff will also report on the goods movement strategies being analyzed.

Mr. Amatya stated that SCAG's goal is to release the Draft RTP by the end of October or early November. Staff plans on presenting the Draft RTP to TCC at its November meeting with the recommendation that the draft be released for a public review and comment period. SCAG is then anticipating to adopt the Draft RTP in February 2008.

4.3 RTIP Update

John Asuncion, SCAG, informed the committee that staff had submitted Administrative Amendment No. 9 to Caltrans last week for their review and comments and are anticipating their approval.

Mr. Asuncion also stated that staff is currently finalizing the Draft 2008 RTIP guidelines, which is anticipated to be presented to the TCC at the August 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, with a recommendation that the draft be released for a 30-day public review. Last week SCAG staff met with the FHWA and EPA to discuss the modeling scenario questions for the 2008 RTIP guidelines. Staff is working on resolving the scenario questions and will bring back the resolutions to this item to the August meeting of the TCWG.

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4.4     Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, announced that because of the lack of representation by the FHWA at today's meeting, the PM Hot Spot reviews determined today will be tentative pending review and determination by FHWA:

*IMP8020:* Not a POAQC (pending FHWA concurrence)

*ORA120316:* Not a POAQC (pending FHWA concurrence)

*SBD35556:* Not a POAQC (pending FHWA concurrence)

Andrew Yoon, Caltrans District 7, stated the District had two projects pending from previous meetings that had not been resolved. The projects are LAOD399 (SR-60 at Lemon Avenue) and LAOD332 (I-405 La Tijera). Caltrans has provided additional information as required by the TCWG, but the projects have yet to be determined.

Additionally, Arman Behtash, Caltrans District 12, stated that he had one project pending determination. This project was ORA02011 (I-405 Magnolia and Beach Boulevard).

Jonathan Nadler responded that the projects would be considered not a POAQC pending FHWA concurrence. These projects will be tagged as time constrained.

4.5     AQMP Update

*South Coast Air Quality Management District*

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, provided an AQMP update for the South Coast and Mojave Desert/Antelope Valley. On June 22, 2007, ARB held a hearing with members of the public, elected officials, as well as AQMD Board Members. AQMD staff had recommended more aggressive actions to reduce emissions from mobile sources, which contribute over 80 percent of the particulate matter pollution in our region, and are responsible for impacting our health. Based on public input received at the hearing, ARB

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has delayed the adoption of its State Strategy. Instead, the ARB Board directed its staff to work closely with the AQMD to strengthen the plan to further reduce mobile source emissions. At the June meeting, ARB's staff did commit to 14 more tons of reductions. The ARB has rescheduled the consideration of the State Strategy and the SCAQMP, to their September meeting.

On July 13, 2007, the AQMD Board adopted 2007 Final AQMP Transportation Conformity Budgets and directed the Executive Officer to forward the adopted 2007 AQMP transportation conformity budgets to the ARB for its approval and subsequent submittal to the U.S. EPA. SCAG has since requested the removal of those measures at this time. SCAG expressed it still needed further time to work with its transportation partners and other stakeholders on the measures. Staff has been having ongoing discussions with its stakeholders about the two goods movement control measures, as well as looking at other alternatives.

*Mojave Desert/ Antelope Valley Air Quality Management Districts*

The Mojave Desert/Antelope Valley AQMDs have not released their AQMPs yet. These areas are reliant on the South Coast AQMD because a substantial portion of their air quality problem is related to transport of emissions from the South Coast Basin to the Mojave Desert and Antelope Valley Air Basins.

*Ventura County Air Pollution Control District*

Ben Cacatian, Ventura County APCD, discussed the air plan for Ventura County APCD. Ventura County is APCD planning to request a classification change from Moderate to Severe 15 for 8-hour ozone. Ventura County APCD staff will incorporate the photochemical modeling and attainment demonstration into the draft 2007 AQMP once available from ARB and South Coast AQMD. The anticipated adoption date has been moved from September to October. The attainment date under the Severe 15 is 2019 which means that Ventura must demonstrate attainment in 2018.

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*SCAG*

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, also discussed that staff is working on a new transportation model and is evaluating whether there needs to be modification to the emission budgets that would be set by using the default EMFAC2007. Staff is discussing its evaluation with ARB, Ventura, and MDAQMD/AVAQMD.

Mr. Nadler also informed the group that there will be a Goods Movement Control Measures Workshop on August 2, 9:00 – 12:00 p.m., at the SCAG office in downtown Los Angeles.

4.6 EPA Conformity Update

*One-Hour Ozone Court Case*

Karina O’Conner, EPA, provided an update on the Court case relating to the one-hour ozone standard. The Court has held that all the requirements for sub-part 2 areas are still in place, and that there are no new requirements in regard to one-hour ozone conformity.

There was previously some speculation that the Court ruling may affect the submittal date of the 8-hour ozone State Implementation Plans (SIPs) which were to be submitted to US EPA by June 2007. There are no changes to this requirement, and the EPA cannot change those deadlines. However, US EPA is not required to immediately make a finding of failure to submit.

*8-hour Ozone Standard*

John Kelly, EPA, discussed the potential modifications to the 8-hour Ozone standard, which consider new scientific evidence about ozone and its effects on people and public welfare.

EPA’s proposal would revise both ozone standards: the primary standard, designed to protect human health; and the secondary standard, designed to protect welfare (such as vegetation and crops). EPA proposes to set the primary standard to a level within the range of 0.070-0.075 parts per million (ppm). The Agency also requested comments on alternative levels of the 8-

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hour primary ozone standard, within a range from 0.060 ppm up to and including retention of the current standard (0.084 ppm). EPA also proposes to specify the level of the primary standard to the third decimal place, because today's monitors can detect ozone that accurately.

EPA is proposing two options for the secondary standard: One option would establish a new form of the standard designed specifically to protect sensitive plants from damage caused by repeated ozone exposure throughout the growing season. This cumulative standard would add daily ozone concentrations across a three-month period. EPA is proposing to set the level of the cumulative standard within the range of 7 to 21 ppm-hours. The other option would follow the current practice of making the secondary standard identical to the proposed primary 8-hour standard.

EPA will take public comment for 90 days following publication of the proposal in the Federal Register and will hold four public hearings. The meeting in Los Angeles will be held on August 30, 2007. EPA will issue final standards by March 12, 2008.

*24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard*

Mr. Kelly also discussed the new 24-hr PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. On October 17, 2006, EPA published a final rule that strengthened the 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard from the 1997 level of 65 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) to 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , and retained the 1997 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard of 15.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . This final rule was effective on December 18, 2006. The secondary standards for the 24-hour and annual standards are set at the same levels as the primary standards.

The new 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard requires States to make recommendations by Nov. 2007 for areas to be designated attainment (meeting the standards) and nonattainment (violating the standards). Subsequently, EPA will make designations by November 2009; those designations will become effective in April 2010. SIPs will be due three years after designations, in April 2013. States must meet the standards by April 2015, with a possible extension to April 2020.



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**5.0    CHAIR'S REPORT**

No new items to report.

**6.0    INFORMATION SHARING**

Jonathan Nadler stated that the Federal Register released a notice on July 19<sup>th</sup> dealing with the Agency Information Collection Activity having to deal with conformity. Mr. Nadler inquired of Karina O'Conner, EPA, as to the importance of this item or whether it was more of a formality. Ms. O'Connor responded that she had submitted some preliminary input for the region a few months ago. Ms. O'Connor stated that if SCAG staff had the time to submit additional input, it would be welcomed.

**7.0    ADJOURNMENT**

Brad McAllester, Metro, adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

**The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.**